

## REMARKS

Claim 12 has been amended to depend from claim 7.

Claims 1-47 are pending and have been restricted under 35 U.S.C. § 121 into the following groups: Group I, claims 1-6; Group II, claims 7-11; Group III, claims 12-21 and 38-47; Group IV, claims 22-26; Group V, claims 27-32; and Group VI, claims 33-37.

The Examiner requests that one of the groups of claims be elected for examination. Although the restriction requirement is traversed for the reasons set forth below, Applicant elects the claims of Group III, claims 12-21 and 38-47, for examination.

The Restriction Requirement is traversed with respect to the division of the claims of Group III from the claims of Group II. While the claims of Groups II and III are patentably distinct, it is submitted that a thorough search of the claims of either group will likely reveal art relevant to the examination of the claims of the other group. Thus, a search of the claims of Group III will, of necessity, reveal information relevant to the examination of the claims of Group II and, therefore, division of the claims into these groups would result in duplicative searches. Therefore, examination of the claims of Group III with the claims of Group II together should not be an undue burden on the Examiner.

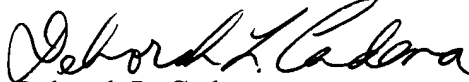
Applicant elects the claims of Group III, claims 12-21 and 38-47, for examination. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Restriction Requirement be reconsidered and that the claims of Group III be examined with the claims of Group II. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent if there are any questions.

Serial No.: 09/853,457

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502624 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP



Deborah L. Cadena

Registration No. 44,048

4370 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 700  
San Diego, CA 92122  
858.535.9001 DLC:cec  
Facsimile: 858.597.1585  
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